

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1, 18 and 19 are amended as indicated below. Claims 2-3, 11-12 and 20 are cancelled. Claims 13-17, 21-26 are withdrawn. The status of all claims is listed below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A reclosable fastener profile assembly, said assembly comprising:

a continuous supply of a first profile strip including at least one rib that extends from the surface of said first strip;

a continuous supply of a second profile strip opposite said first strip; said second strip including at least two ribs that extend from the surface of said second strip; said rib of said first strip and said ribs of said second strip adapted to sealingly engage and maintain an airtight seal when so engaged; [[and]]

a compression molded segment seal portion fusing said first profile strip, said second profile strip and said ribs of said first profile: strip and said second strip; said compression molded segment seal including a fused section of said first and second profile strips formed through the application of heat and pressure; said fused section substantially flattened to form an airtight seal of said first and second profile strips, without distorting said ribs of said first and second profile strips outside of said fused section, thereby maintaining said airtight seal of said first and second profile strips when interlocked; and

said compression molded segment seal portion having a thickness less than the combined thickness of said first profile segment and said second profile segment.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said compression molded segment seal includes a severing portion of said first profile strip and

said second profile strip for cutting said fastener profile and creating an individual profile fastener assembly.

Claim 5 (original): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said continuous supply of first profile strips, said continuous supply of second profile strips and a plurality of said compression molded segment seal create a continuous linear supply of profile fastener assemblies.

Claim 6 (original): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said first profile strip and said second profile strip are configured to fittingly mate together such that said first profile strip is flush with said second profile strip when said first profile strip and said second profile are engaged.

Claim 7 (original): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said ribs of first and second strips have respective head portions and neck portions, wherein said head portions are arcuate in profile.

Claim 8 (original): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said first strip includes a first end and a second end, said second strip further including a first end and second end, wherein respective first ends and respective second ends of said first and second strips are created through application of said compression molded segment seal.

Claim 9 (original): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said ribs of said first and second strips have respective head portions and neck portions, and wherein said head portions are wider than said neck portions.

Claim 10 (original): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said second strip includes one more rib than said first strip.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method of forming a fastener profile for use in the production of reclosable packages, said method comprising the acts of:

providing an interconnected first profile strip and second profile strip, said interconnected profiles having an end portion; and

applying heat and pressure to said end portion of said interconnected first and second profile strip thereby fusing said end of said interconnected profiles.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of forming a fastener profile of claim 13, wherein said method comprising the additional acts of:

advancing said interconnected first profile strip and second profile strip; and

applying heat and pressure to a second portion of said interconnected first and second profile strips thereby defining a length of reclosable fastener profile between said first end and said second portion, said second portion also defining the first end of a subsequent fastener profile.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of forming a fastener profile of claim 14, wherein said method comprising the additional act of:

cutting said second portion of said interconnected first and second profile strips thereby defining a single reclosable fastener profile.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method of forming a continuous strip of fastener profiles for use in the production of reclosable packages, said method comprising the acts of:

providing a continuous strip of interconnected first and second profile strips, and

applying heat and pressure to a portion of said interconnected first and second profile strips at predetermined intervals, thereby fusing said portion of said profiles.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of forming a continuous strip of fastener profiles of claim 16, wherein said method comprising the additional act of:

cutting said fused portion of said continuous strip of said first and second profiles thereby defining an individual reclosable fastener profile from said continuous strip of fastener profiles.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A reclosable storage bag comprising:

a first bag wall;

a second bag wall; [[and]]

a reclosable fastener profile assembly, said assembly comprising:

a first profile strip including at least one rib that extends from the surface of said first strip;

a second profile strip opposite said first strip said strip including at least two ribs that extend from the surface of said second strip; said rib of said first strip and said ribs of said second strip adapted to sealingly engage and maintain an airtight seal when so engaged; [[and]]

a compression molded segment seal portion fusing said first profile strip, said second profile strip and said ribs of said first profile strip and said second profile strip; said compression molded segment seal including a fused section of said first and second profile strips formed through the application of heat and pressure; said fused section substantially flattened to form an airtight seal of said first and second profile strips, without distorting said ribs of said first and second profile strips outside of said fused section, thereby maintaining said airtight seal of said first and second profile strips when interlocked; wherein said first profile strip and said second profile strip are heat sealed to said first bag wall and said second bag wall, respectively; and

said compression molded segment seal portion having a thickness less than the combined thickness of said first profile segment and said second profile segment.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The reclosable fastener profile assembly of claim 1, wherein said profile assembly further includes:

a first bag wall; [[and]]

a second bag wall where edges of said first and second bag walls are sealed together thereby defining an inner bag and  
said compression molded segment seal portion having a thickness less than the combined thickness of said first profile segment and said second profile segment.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A method of forming a reclosable storage bag, said method comprising the acts of:

providing an interconnected first profile strip and second profile strip, said interconnected profiles having an end portion;

applying heat and pressure to said end portion of said interconnected first and second profile strip thereby fusing said end of said interconnected profiles;

applying heat and pressure to a second portion of said interconnected first and second profile strip thereby fusing said second portion of said interconnected profiles;

cutting said fused portions of said continuous strip of said first and second profiles thereby defining an individual reclosable fastener profile between said fused portions of said continuous strip of interconnected fastener profiles;

sealing said individual reclosable fastener profile to a first and second bag wall, thereby defining a reclosable storage bag.

Claim 22 (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an airtight reclosable fastener for use with a plastic bag, said method comprised of:

engaging a first length of a first profile strip with a first length of a second profile strip to form interconnected first and second profile strips;

sealing a first end of said interconnected first and second profile strips;

sealing a second end of said interconnected first and second profile strips;

applying a first compression molded segment seal to said first end and applying a second compression molded segment seal to said second end; and

simultaneously fusing the first compression molded segment seal and cutting the first compression molded segment seal.

Claim 23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 22 wherein said step of simultaneously fusing and cutting is comprised of thermally heating and compressing the segment seals.

Claim 24 (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a reclosable seal for a plastic bag comprised of:

engaging a first length of a first flexible profile strip with a first length of a second flexible profile strip to form interconnected first and second flexible profile strips;

applying heat and pressure to a first end of said interconnected first and second flexible profile strips to form an airtight seal at said first end of said interconnected first and second flexible profile strips; and

simultaneously fusing the first compression molded segment seal and cutting the first compression molded segment seal thereby forming an airtight flexible profile strip seal.

Claim 25 (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a reclosable seal for a plastic bag comprised of:

engaging a first length of a first flexible profile strip with a first length of a second flexible profile strip to form interconnected first and second flexible profile strips; and

applying heat and pressure to a first end of said interconnected first and second flexible profile strips to form a first compression-molded airtight segment seal while substantially simultaneously cutting the first compression molded segment seal to form a flexible profile strip seal that is airtight.

Claim 26 (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a reclosable plastic bag comprised of:

engaging a first length of a first flexible profile strip with a first length of a second flexible profile strip to form interconnected first and second flexible profile strips;

applying heat and pressure to a first end of said interconnected first and second flexible profile strips to seal said first end of said interconnected first and second flexible profile strips;

simultaneously fusing the first compression molded segment seal and cutting the first compression molded segment seal thereby forming a flexible profile strip seal that is airtight; and

attaching the flexible profile strip seal to the open end of a flexible plastic bag.